

The Random Jottings of Donald Jay from Nelson in Pendle/

Once upon a time in the small town of Nelson, there lived a young apprentice plumber named Jimmy. He was known for his dedication and willingness to take on any job that came his way. Little did he know that one particular job would earn him a unique nickname and a story that would be told for years to come.

One sunny morning, Jimmy and his fellow plumbers received a call from the Nelson Council. They were tasked with converting an old-fashioned long drop toilet into a modern flush toilet. Excited to tackle the project, they gathered their tools and set off to the location.

Upon their arrival, they discovered an unexpected surprise. A small cat had somehow found its way into the depths of the long drop toilet and was trapped. Concerned for the feline's safety, Jimmy and his colleagues immediately sprung into action. With careful maneuvering and a bit of patience, they managed to rescue the frightened cat from its unsavory predicament.

However, the cat's ordeal was far from over. Covered in unsightly remnants from its journey down the toilet, the poor creature desperately needed a bath. Without hesitation, Jimmy volunteered to clean the cat and provide it with some much-needed comfort.

As Jimmy gingerly approached the cat, he tried his best to calm the frightened feline. The cat, understandably terrified, reacted by scratching Jimmy in multiple places. Despite the scratches and the pain, Jimmy persisted, understanding the importance of helping the animal. With gentle hands and a warm heart, he carefully washed away the filth, making sure to keep the cat as comfortable as possible.

After the cleansing ordeal, the cat emerged looking cleaner and happier than before. It seemed grateful for Jimmy's act of kindness, rubbing against his leg as a sign of appreciation. Word of the incident quickly spread throughout the town, and Jimmy's courageous act became the talk of the community.

From that day forward, Jimmy became known as "Jimmy Cat Washer." The townspeople admired his compassion and bravery in rescuing and cleaning the trapped feline. Even though he had scratches to remind him of the encounter, Jimmy wore his newfound nickname with pride. In addition to his plumbing skills, Jimmy had another passion in life—he was an amateur radio operator. He spent his free time tinkering with radios, connecting with people from around the world, and expanding his knowledge of the technology.

While his nickname "Jimmy Cat Washer" stuck, he continued to pursue his plumbing apprenticeship and eventually became a skilled plumber. The Bedlington terriers he owned for years brought him joy and companionship, and he treasured their loyalty.

As the years went by, Jimmy's reputation grew not only for his plumbing expertise but also for his selflessness and empathy towards animals. He would often go out of his way to rescue stray cats and dogs, finding them loving homes or caring for them himself. Jimmy's acts of kindness extended beyond just the realm of plumbing, leaving a lasting impact on both the people and animals of Nelson.

The story of "Jimmy Cat Washer" became a legendary tale in Nelson, reminding everyone that acts of compassion, no matter how small, can make a significant difference in the lives of others. And as for Jimmy, he continued to embrace his nickname, proudly sharing the story of the cat in the long drop toilet and the unexpected adventure that changed his life forever.

By Donald Jay